DEC's book on Distance Education

2707. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the book 'Information base on Distance Higher Education in India' published by Distance Education Council (DEC) during December, 2004;

(b) whether courses/programmes run by the various universities mentioned in the above book are as per UGC/DEC norms/instructions;

(c) whether Degree, awarded by the universities mentioned in the above book are valid for Government job; and

(d) the proposal of Government to publish this book every year to give proper information to the students/professionals about the programmes/courses run by the various universities through distance education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University, in addition to the normal programmes approved by University Grants Commission, the Open and Distance Education System in the country also offer programme relevant to work place and societal needs at Certificate and Diploma level. The list of courses/programmes mentioned in the book is indicative of the programmes on offer and are not necessarily approved by Distance Education Council (DEC).

(c) The degree awarded by universities through distance mode are valid for Government job provided these are approved by the Distance Education Council.

(d) The DEC proposes to bring out Information Base regularly, on yearly basis, as a part of its promotional activities.

Textbooks under SSA

†2708. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme has been started for providing free textbooks to the SC/ST students under the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan';

(b) whether it is also a fact that this scheme has not been implemented completely in all the States;

(c) the details of the textbooks distributed in Maharashtra and other States during the last educational year 2004-05, the number of the students, State-wise in this educational year and the number of students to whom textbooks have been provided; and

(d) the arrangements that Government propose to make so that the books could be provided to all the students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, there is a provision for free text-books to all girls and Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe children at primary and upper primary levels within an upper ceiling of Rs. 150 per child. However, State Governments already funding free textbooks before Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, are to continue to fund these from their own State Budgets. In case any State Government was partially subsidizing the cost of textbooks being supplied to children in elementary classes, then assistance under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan would be restricted to that portion of the cost of the books, which is being borne by the children.

In view of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan guidelines enunciated above, free textbooks given to eligible children in Maharashtra and other States is given in the Statement.

Statement

Distribution of Free Textbooks (2004-2005)

Name of State	No. of enrolled children eligible for receiving free textbooks in 2004-05	No. of children who received free textbooks in 2004-2005.
Andhra Pradesh	7161552	7161552
Arunachal Prdesh	State Government fund the free textbook programme.	
Assam	2488760	2488760
Bihar	5689307	2024016

Name of State	No. of enrolled children eligible for receiving free textbooks in 2004-05	No. of children who received free textbooks in 2004-2005.
Chhattisgarh	2408576	2100749
Delhi	State Government fund the free textbook programme.	
Gujarat	State Government fund the free textbook programme.	
Haryana	1236326	1236326
Himachal Pradesh	635864	635864
Jammu and Kashmir	747280	747280
	Funds under SSA are used for eligible children only from Class III to VIII.	
Jharkhand	2404705	2404705
Karnataka	304671	304671
	SSA funds are used only for SC/ST children and girls of Class VIII.	
Kerala	414591	414591
Madhya Pradesh	8168000	8168000
Maharashtra	9385913	9385913
Meghalaya	276290	113000
Mizoram	51069	51069
Nagland	29302	29302
Orissa	6092739	6092739
Punjab	582586	582586
	SSA funds are used only for non-SC girls.	
Rajasthan	6988293	6988293
Sikkim	74294	61397
Tamil Nadu	State Government fund the textbook programme.	
Tripura	497187	497187
Uttar Pradesh	14400000	14100000
Uttaranchal	523752	523752
West Bengal	6213507	4379887

Recognised engineering colleges

2709. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Wll the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of engineering colleges which have been recognized by AICTE, State-wise;

(b) the number of seats available in such colleges, State-wise;